

taking the alcohol and the sensory stimulation involved in swallowing it, while those who have found a diminution in the amount of work must be open to the charge of having been influenced by suggestion."

WHITE.

THE RELATION OF THE MEDULLA OBLONGATA TO THE PUPIL. L. Bach (Münch. med Woch., 54, 1907, June 18).

The author ascertained through experiments on monkeys, cats and rabbits that decapitation does not destroy the light reflex of the pupil unless there is an injury to the medulla extending to the fourth ventricle, when the light reflex disappears at once. Ruge obtained the same results from his investigations. To further explain these results H. Meyer and the author have made sections through the medulla of a cat, near the spinal end of the fourth ventricle and found that these caused the light reflex to disappear and a dilation of the pupils, while sections above or below that point never produced these phenomena. Exposure of the medulla or application of irritants also influenced the light reaction and produced myosis. As not all sections made at the spinal end of the fourth ventricle caused the light reflex to disappear, Meyer and the writer concluded that only a very circumscribed area was concerned with the light reflex, and are of the opinion that this small area is the pupillary center in the spinal end of the fourth ventricle. Burke and Trendelenburg in their eight experiments on cats were unable to obtain the same results as Bach. These authors are of the opinion that Bach's hypothesis of an inhibitory center must be abandoned.

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PARANOIA AND THE WORKINGMEN'S AID FUND. Dr. Tintemann (Münch. med. Woch., 54, 1907, July 23).

The author reports two cases in which two cases of physical injuries of a trivial nature were the exciting causes of the psychosis. Case No. 1, admitted January 1903: A man of marked neurotic and vesanic taint received contusions of the soft parts of the left leg in 1895 which incapacitated him for work for a long time. He received full support for one and one half years from the workingmen's aid fund, when he was declared to be able to earn his own living and all aid was withdrawn. Since then he has been striving, employing legal measures, to obtain the allowance of the aid fund. In addition to the complaint of the injured leg he now has general nervous affections. He felt that he was ill treated by everybody; many wrongs were done to him; he was fully convinced of his incapacity to work; wrote threatening letters to higher authorities. He was weak-minded and showed a marked judgment defect. In the court the question was asked whether the mental disturbance was a direct or an indirect result of the injury. The author expresses the opinion that the injury was the exciting cause in an individual with marked hereditary predispositions, and the patient was therefore entitled to at least part of the support of the aid fund. The second case was that of a laborer, who on account of rheumatism resigned his position and demanded that the annual rental allowance be allowed him for disability. When this was refused he began legal measures, had law suit after law suit which never terminated in his favor. He came in conflict with city officials. Refused to send his child to school; would not buy any shoes for the child in order to show his poverty; was brought to court and fined, refused to pay his fine; was imprisoned; when